

40¢
©

35
OCT
02199

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

© 1979 MARVEL COMICS GROUP



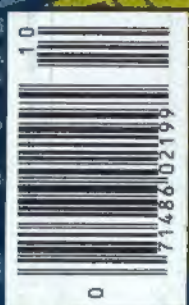
TM

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

ALL-NEW
OFFBEAT
EXCITEMENT!



WHO DARES ENTER THE
LABYRINTH!



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

TONY ISABELLA / GUEST WRITER LEE ELIAS & MIKE ESPOSITO / ARTISTS GUEST CLEM ROBINS / LETTERER BOB SHAREN / COLORIST J. SHOOTER / EDITOR

IMAGINE: SOMETHING
HIDEOUSLY OBSCENE,
SOMETHING UNSPEAK-
ABLY VILE, WORKING
ITS WAY INTO YOUR VERY
MIND.

MULTIPLY THAT
AGONY A
HUNDREDFOLD.

THEN, IF YOU HAVE HALF THE
SENSITIVITY THAT YOU BELIEVE
YOURSELF TO POSSESS, YOU
WILL BEGIN TO APPRECIATE
THE PAIN SLICING THROUGH
SPIDER-MAN'S BRAIN THIS
FATEFUL EVENING!

AND YOU, LIKE SPIDER-MAN,
WILL FEAR THAT YOU WILL
NEVER FORGET THE SHEER
HORROR OF THIS MOMENT!

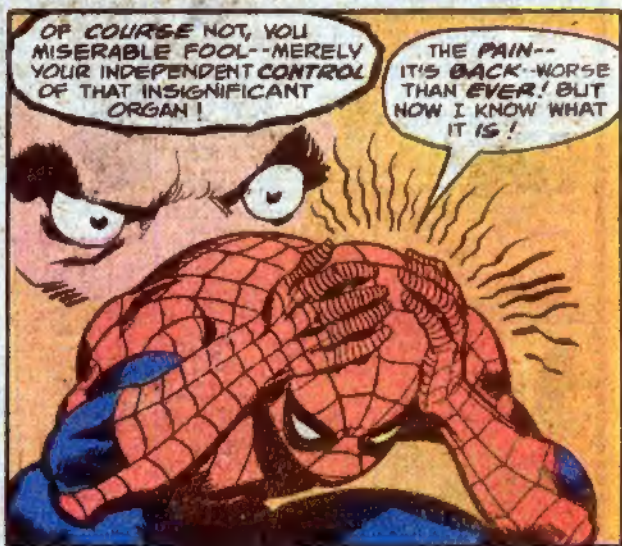
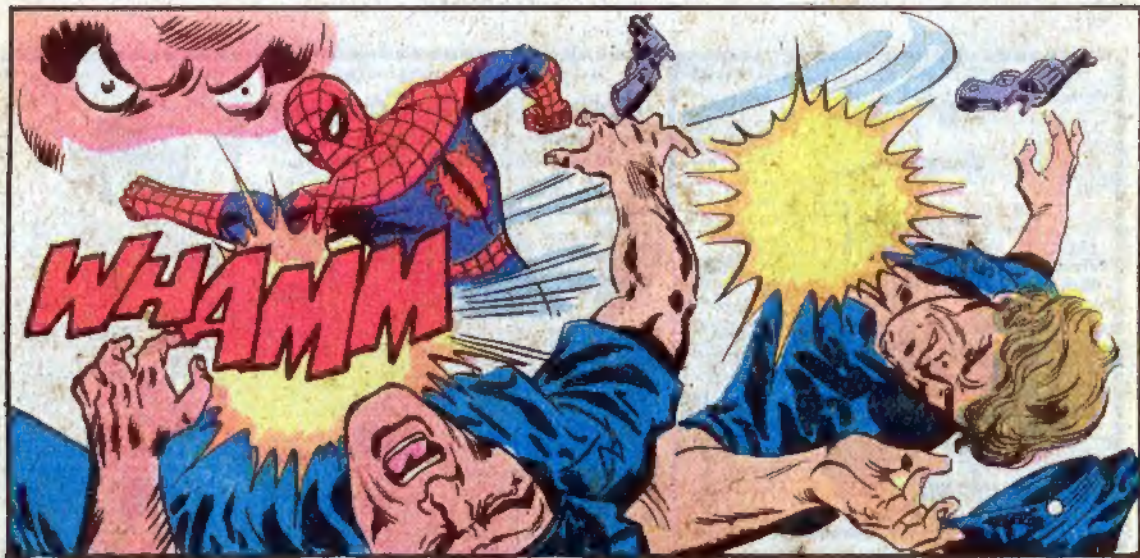
ARGGGG!

Labyrinth

6852
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright © 1979 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 36, October, 1979 issue. Price 40¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$6.00. Foreign, \$7.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.







TAKE HEED, ARACHNID. HAD I SO WISHED, I COULD HAVE COMMANDED YOU TO BATTER YOURSELF AGAINST THAT WALL UNTIL YOUR EVERY BONE WAS REDUCED TO MERE POWDER.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING ME TO THANK YOU.

HARDLY. HOWEVER, I DO EXPECT YOU TO FOLLOW MY THOUGHTS TO YOUR FINAL DESTINATION--THE PLACE WHERE THE WRONGS YOU VISITED UPON ME SHALL AT LAST BE AVENGED!

I'M ON MY WAY, CHICKLES...

I JUST HOPE YOUR INSURANCE IS PAID UP!

BUT THE AIR OF CONFIDENCE THAT CARRIES OUR WEE-SWINGING WONDER FROM MANHATTAN TO QUEENS IN RECORD TIME IS ABRUPTLY SHATTERED...

...WHEN HE REACHES HIS DESTINATION!

THIS IS FLASH THOMPSON'S NEIGHBORHOOD--BUT IT HASN'T LOOKED THIS DESERTED IN YEARS!

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!

THIS RUN-DOWN SHACK WAS FLATTENED AGES AGO! THEY WERE GOING TO BUILD SOME HIGH-RISES HERE!

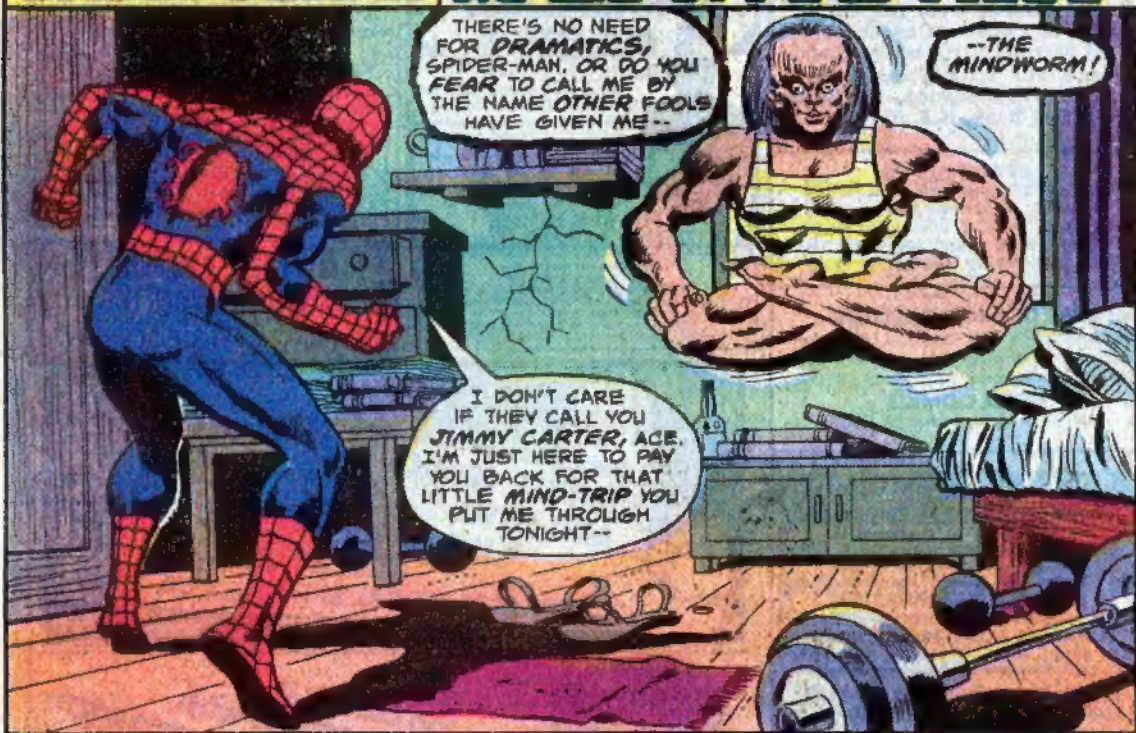
THEY DID BUILD SOME HIGH-RISES HERE!

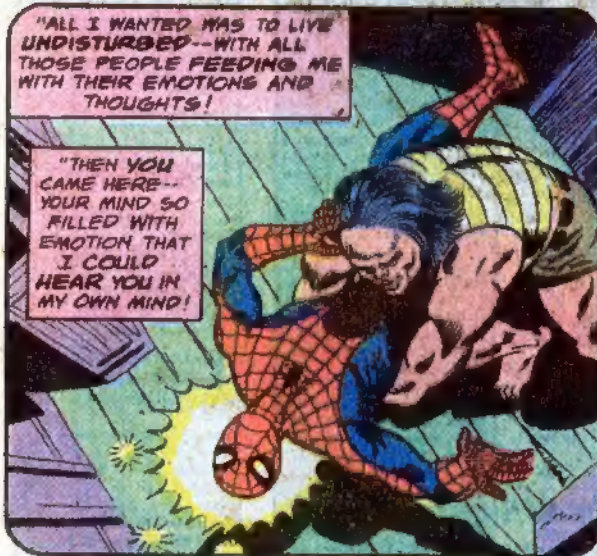
SO HOW COME THIS HORROR HOTEL IS STILL STANDING? JUST AS SOLID AS IT WAS THE NIGHT I FOUGHT--

YOU!

WELCOME TO RETRIBUTION, SPIDER-MAN!

CHAPTER 2 into the MAZE of MADNESS

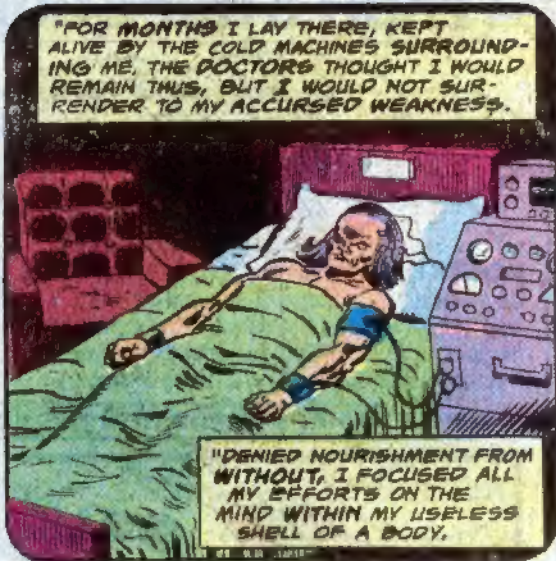






"I GREN
WEAKER. THE
AUTHORITIES
RUSHED ME
TO A NEARBY
HOSPITAL...
BUT THOUGH
THE DOCTORS
WERE ABLE
TO PREVENT
MY UNTIMELY
DEATH--

"--THEY WERE
UNABLE TO
RESTORE MY
VITALITY.



"FOR MONTHS I LAY THERE, KEPT
ALIVE BY THE COLD MACHINES SURROUND-
ING ME. THE DOCTORS THOUGHT I WOULD
REMAIN THUS, BUT I WOULD NOT SUR-
RENDER TO MY ACCURSED WEAKNESS.

"DENIED NOURISHMENT FROM
WITHOUT, I FOCUSED ALL
MY EFFORTS ON THE
MIND WITHIN MY USELESS
SHELL OF A BODY.



I FOUND NEW STRENGTH THERE,
SPIDER-MAN, BEYOND ANY I HAD
PREVIOUSLY POSSESSED! MY WILL
TORE THROUGH THE BARRIERS
THAT KEEP MOST MEN FROM USING
THEIR FULL BRAIN CAPACITY!

I HAD BEEN
REBORN--



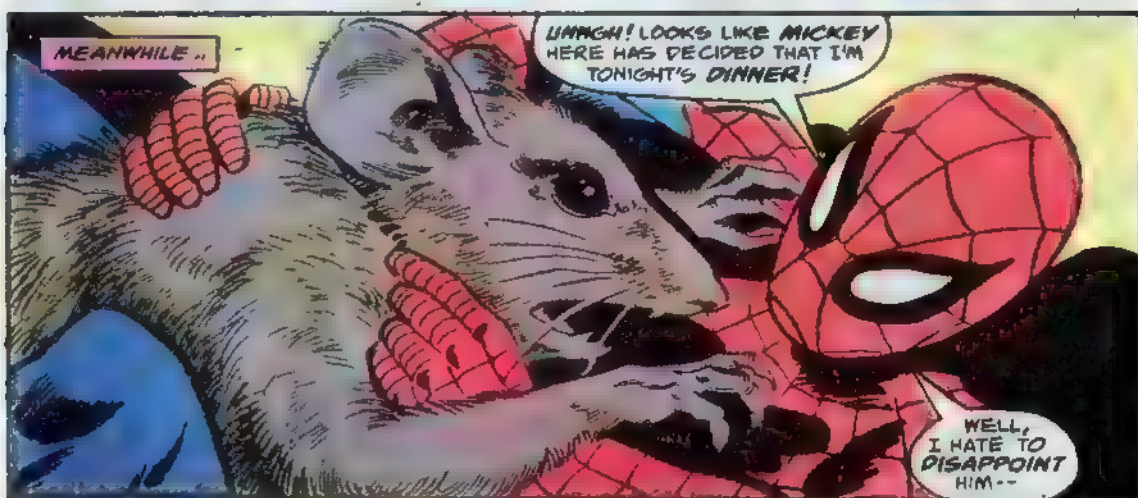
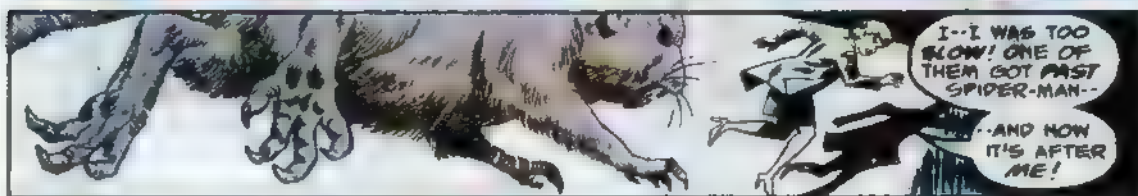
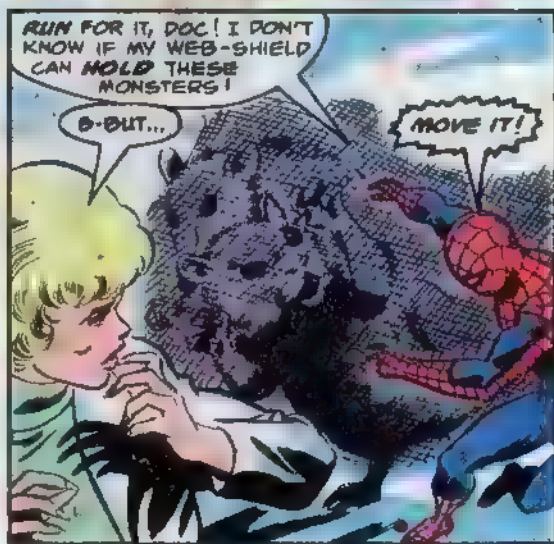
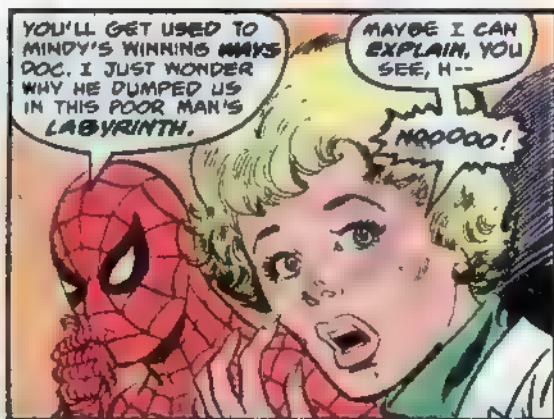
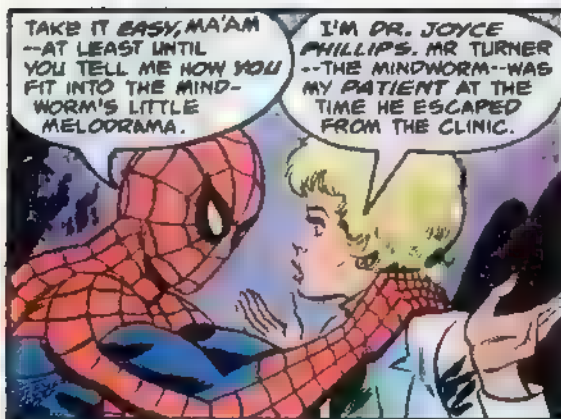
"--AND I
WOULD BE
FREE!

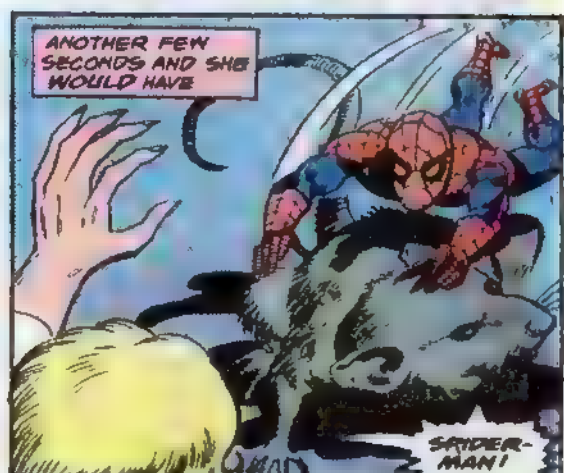
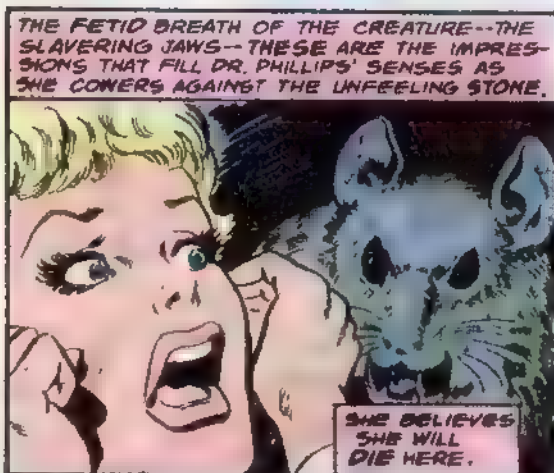
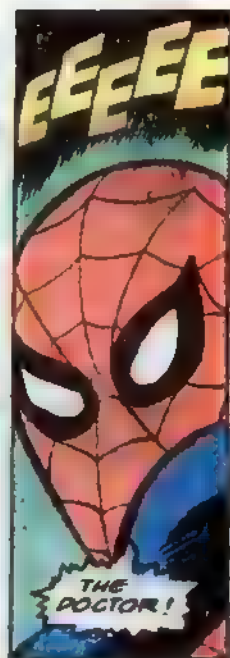
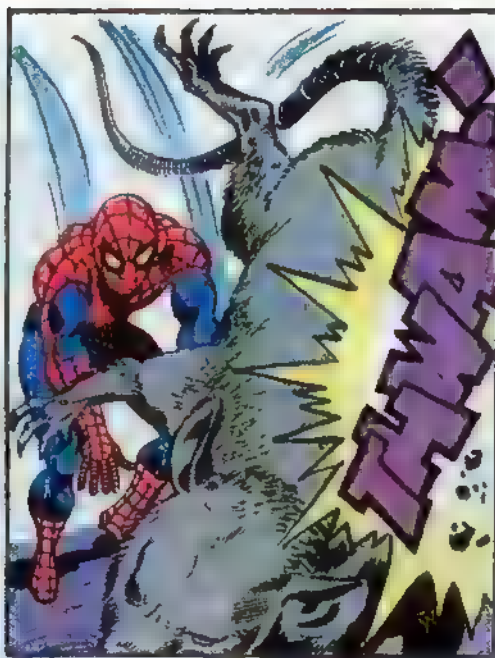


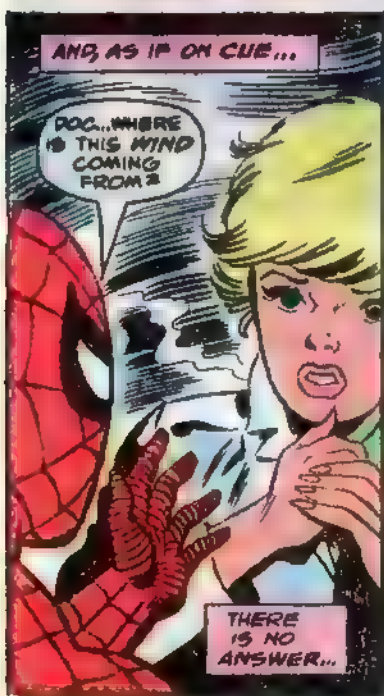
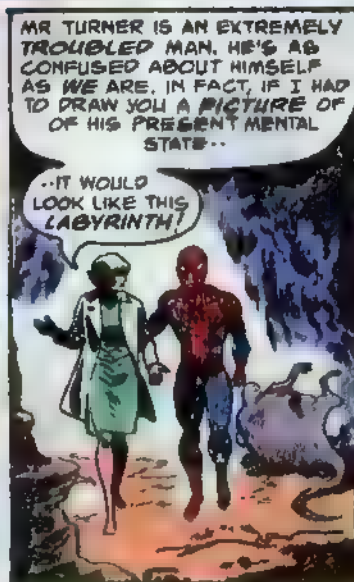
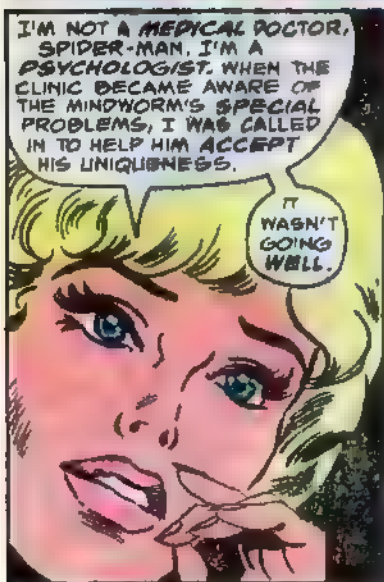
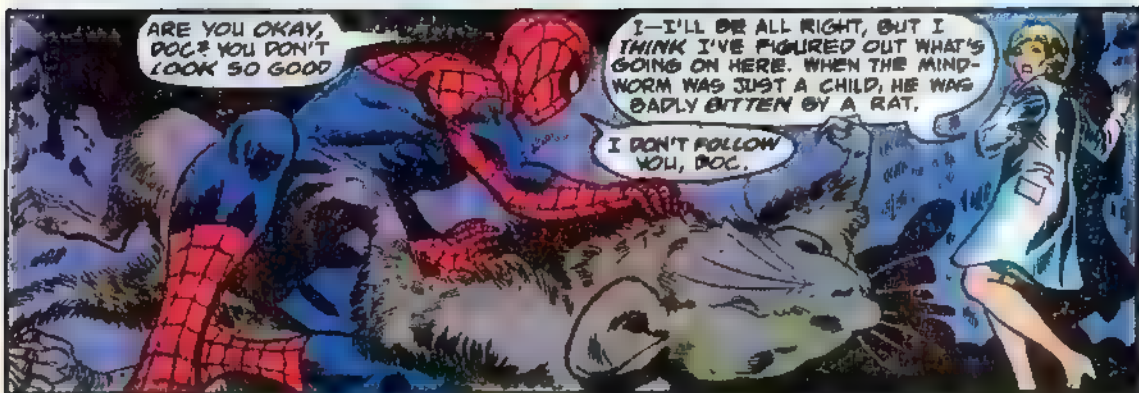
"BUT WHAT GOOD
WAS FREEDOM WHEN
IT MEANT LIVING AMONG
CREATURES WHO
WERE AS FAR BENEATH
ME AS AN APE IS
BENEATH AN
ORDINARY
HUMAN BEING?

"I WAS STILL ALONE--MORE
FRIGHTFULLY ALONE THAN
ANY MAN HAS BEEN SINCE
THE VERY DAWN OF TIME!

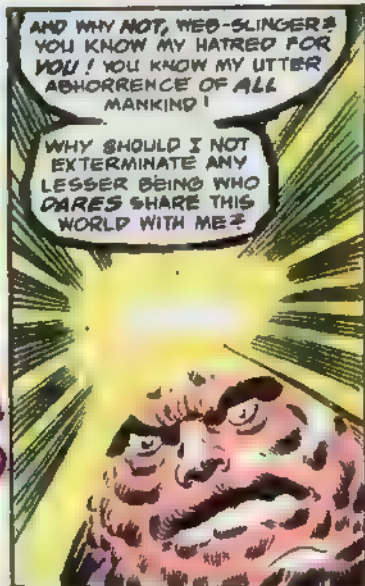
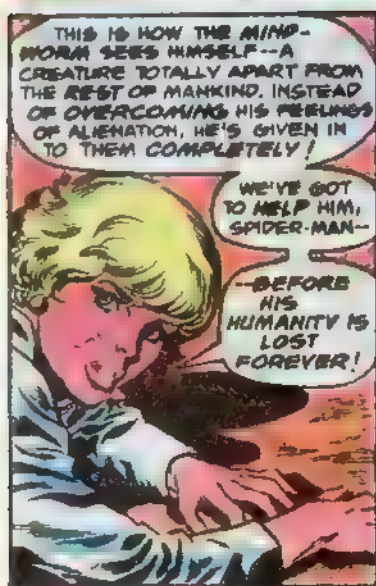








CHAPTER 3 THE ONCE AND FUTURE MINDWORM

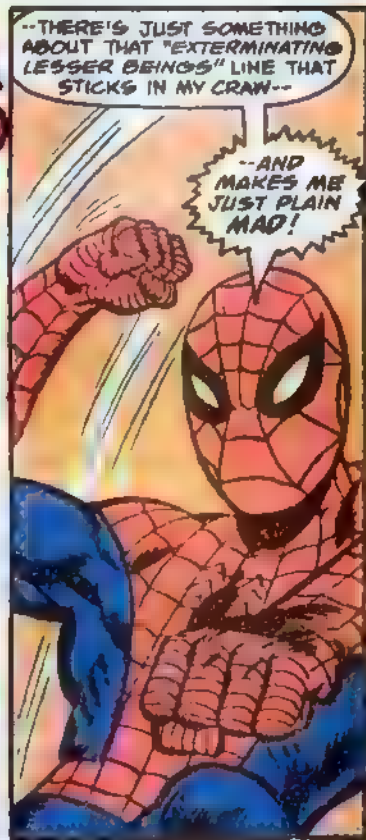




SORRY, MUSHMIND,
BUT I DRAW THE
LINE AT DEBATING
PHILOSOPHY WITH
CERTIFIED
PSYCHOS--

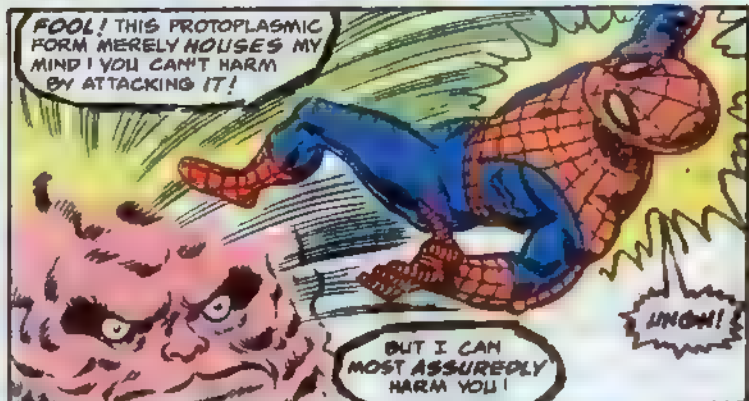


--AND NO
MATTER HOW
SORRY I MIGHT
FEEL FOR A JOE
AS MESSED UP
AS YOU ARE--



--THERE'S JUST SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT "EXTERMINATING
LESSER BEINGS" LINE THAT
STICKS IN MY CRAW--

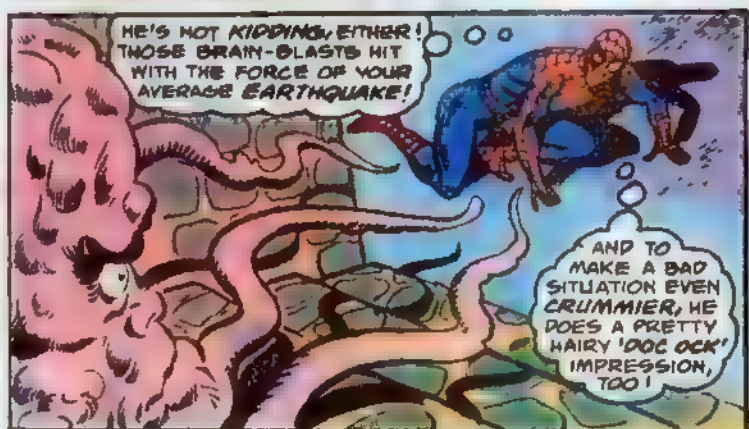
--AND
MAKES ME
JUST PLAIN
MAD!



FOOL! THIS PROTOPLASMIC
FORM MERELY HOUSES MY
MIND! YOU CAN'T HARM
BY ATTACKING IT!

BUT I CAN
MOST ASSURELY
HARM YOU!

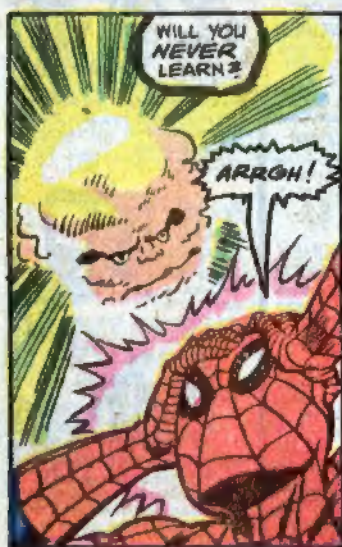
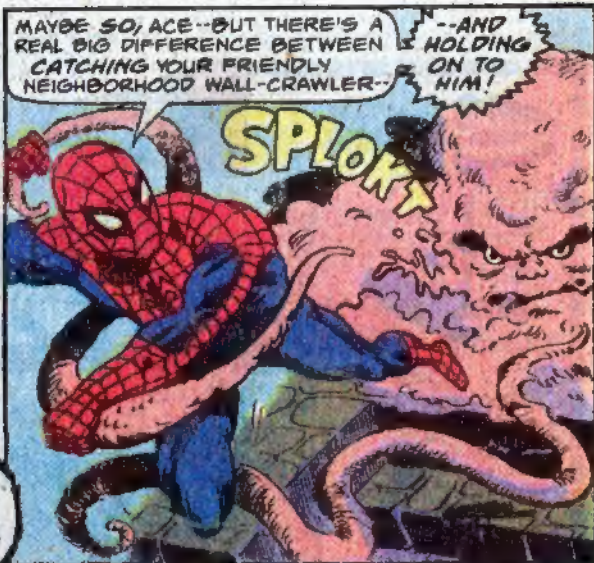
UNOW!



HE'S NOT KIDDING, EITHER!
THOSE BRAIN-BLASTS HIT
WITH THE FORCE OF YOUR
AVERAGE EARTHQUAKE!

AND TO
MAKE A BAD
SITUATION EVEN
CRUMMIER, HE
DOES A PRETTY
HAIRY 'DOC OCK'
IMPRESSION,
TOO!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING





MY PARENTS?! HOW DARE YOU MENTION MY PARENTS?!

MY PARENTS?! HOW DARE YOU MENTION MY PARENTS?!

ARRRH!



IT WASN'T MY FAULT THAT THEY DIED! I WAS JUST A CHILD! I COULDN'T CONTROL MY POWER!

I DIDN'T WANT TO DRAIN THEIR STRENGTH!

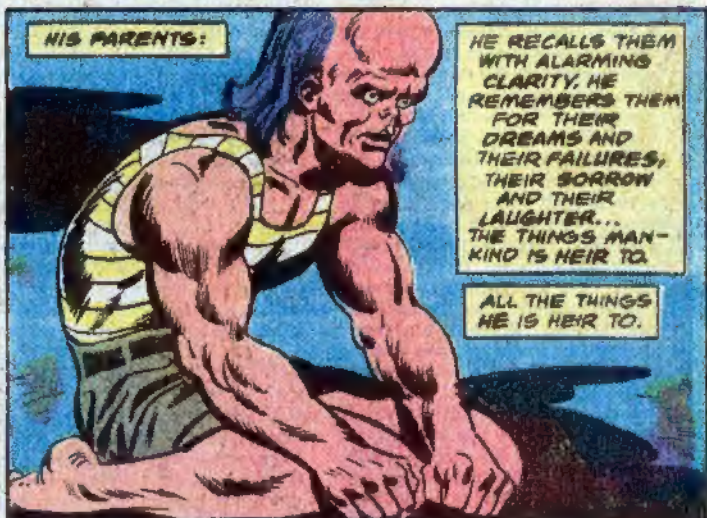
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL THEM!



YOU'VE DONE IT, SPIDER-MAN. YOU CUT TO THE HEART OF HIS ALIENATION! HIS GUILT OVER THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS!

LUCKY ME! EVERY BONE IN MY BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN USED FOR GATTING PRACTISE!

LOOK! HE'S REGAINED HIS HUMAN FORM!



HIS PARENTS:

HE RECALLS THEM WITH ALARMING CLARITY. HE REMEMBERS THEM FOR THEIR DREAMS AND THEIR FAILURES, THEIR SORROW AND THEIR LAUGHTER... THE THINGS MAN-KIND IS HEIR TO.

ALL THE THINGS HE IS HEIR TO.



HE LOOKS TO THE HEAVENS LIKE A BLIND MAN WHO'S SUDDENLY BEEN GIVEN SIGHT...

...AND THEN HE IS GONE.



IT'S OVER, JOYCE. IT'S ACTUALLY OVER. IN THIS MADMAN'S MAZE, I FINALLY CAME TO GRIPS WITH A DEADLY FOE --



--AND DEFEATED HIM FOR ALL TIME!

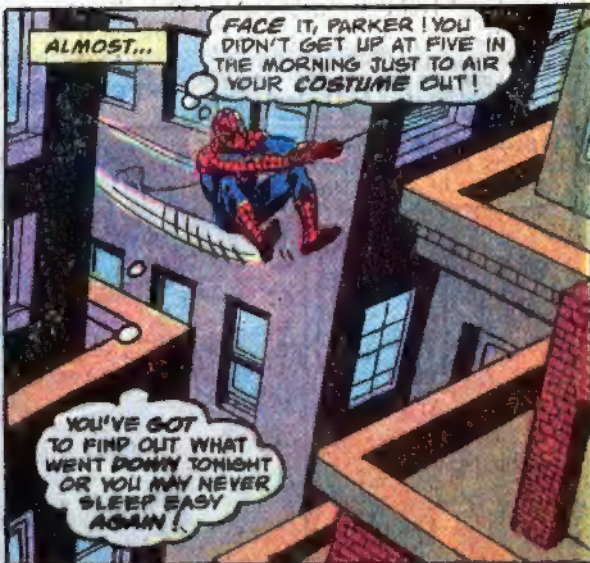
IT WAS ONLY A NIGHTMARE, HE TELLS HIMSELF AS HE AWAKENS IN AN ICY SWEAT.



HE ALMOST CONVINCES HIMSELF.

ALMOST...

FACE IT, PARKER! YOU DIDN'T GET UP AT FIVE IN THE MORNING JUST TO AIR YOUR COSTUME OUT!



YOU'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT WENT DOWN TONIGHT OR YOU MAY NEVER SLEEP EASY AGAIN!

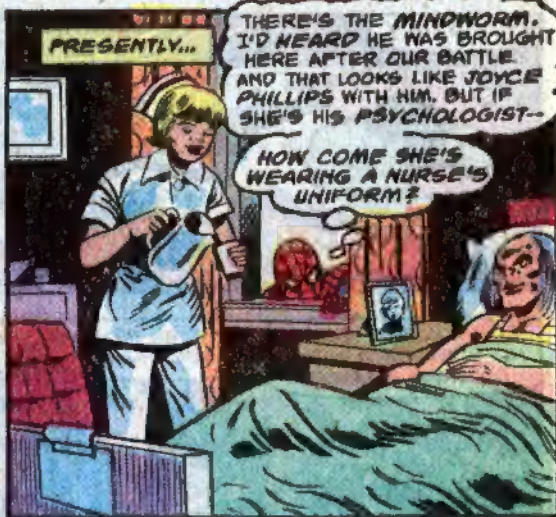


AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON YOU CAN GO TO FOR THE FACTS.

PRESENTLY...

THERE'S THE MINDWORM. I'D HEARD HE WAS BROUGHT HERE AFTER OUR BATTLE AND THAT LOOKS LIKE JOYCE PHILLIPS WITH HIM. BUT IF SHE'S HIS PSYCHOLOGIST--

HOW COME SHE'S WEARING A NURSE'S UNIFORM?



I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT, WILLIAM. REMEMBER: YOU PROMISED TO HELP ME CRAM FOR MY PSYCH FINAL.

SHE'S LEAVING, NOW'S MY CHANCE TO ASK "WILLIAM" A FEW POINTED QUESTIONS.



THEN BY ALL MEANS ASK THEM, SPIDER-MAN.

SO YOU CAN READ MY THOUGHTS. OKAY, I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ANYWAY.

I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, TURNER. JUST WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT? WAS IT REAL, OR JUST A DREAM?



